



# State of Idaho Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

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## Deaf Education FAQ #1

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Because much is occurring with deaf and hard of hearing education in our great state, we felt it would be useful to publish a periodic FAQ bulletin during the next couple of months to highlight some facts and information from the Council's October 2006 report on deaf education reform. To request a hard copy of the full report, please email Wes Maynard ([maynardw@idhw.state.id.us](mailto:maynardw@idhw.state.id.us)) or call 800-433-1323.

### Frequently Asked Questions

#### 1. How many deaf and hard-of-hearing students are there in Idaho from birth to 21?

- 150+ deaf students who use sign language as their *primary* mode of communication<sup>1</sup>
  - 76 are from birth to nine
  - 74 are from 10-21
- 31+ deaf students who are purely auditory-oral (i.e., no sign language)<sup>2</sup>
- 2,400+ hard-of-hearing students<sup>3</sup>

#### 2. Because deaf and hard-of-hearing students differ so much in their educational needs, what programs need to be in place to educate all of them effectively?

- One residential school for the deaf in an optimal location
- Two or three Auditory-Oral programs in locations with high numbers of implanted students
- Increased services relating to Idaho's eight existing local mainstreaming programs<sup>4</sup>
- More local audiologists to serve the 2,400 hard-of-hearing students

#### 3. How many states have at least one school for the deaf?

- 46<sup>5</sup> (two of the states without a deaf school are scheduled to open one within the next nine months<sup>6</sup>)

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<sup>1</sup> Idaho School for the Deaf and the Blind Statewide Demographics Report, May 31, 2006.

<sup>2</sup> Idaho School for the Deaf and the Blind Statewide Demographics Report, May 31, 2006.

<sup>3</sup> Sara King Downs (2002), *Audiological Services in Idaho School Districts that do and do not have an Audiologist*. A thesis submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of M.S. in the Dept. of Speech Pathology and Audiology at Idaho State University.

<sup>4</sup> Currently, Idaho has existing local mainstreaming programs in Meridian, Boise, Emmett, Payette, Lewiston, Pocatello, Moscow, and Coeur d'Alene.

<sup>5</sup> Data from this section were gathered from Gallaudet University's Annual Survey of State School, published in *American Annals of the Deaf* (April 2001), "Educational Programs for Deaf Students," as drawn from "Washington School for the Deaf: Models of Education and Service Delivery, Barbara McLain and Annie Pennucci, pp. 71-74, June 2002).

<sup>6</sup> New Hampshire is scheduled to open a deaf charter school in Concord in January of 2007; Nevada is scheduled to open a deaf charter school in Las Vegas in August of 2007.